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#5001-z
T. G. POPHAM PAPERS

Papers, 1863-1864

Folder 1 of 1

Camp 1st [illegible] Infantry
Near Taylorsville [illegible] 15 1863

My dear Mother

I avail myself of the opportunity this morning of writing you by Sgt Yates, hoping you are well and are now free from the Yankees. We hear that Genl Lee is at Fredericksburg with a portion of the noble army and that Genl Ewell was at Manassas Junction day before yesterday. If true I think you need suffer very little uneasiness about the Yankees this winter. I know that the County of Rappahannock had not been laid waste and destroyed by Meade's famous army of invasion. If the Yankees had been permitted to remain in Culpeper and the adjoining Counties this winter

I wish it not, but that we feeling
their kind love upon all would
have [illegible] in consequence of
the direction of the United States
of the South who have [illegible]
[illegible] in [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible], the [illegible] will
be subject to their reckless
hands.

We [illegible] [illegible] quite
a pleasant time down here, [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]
on earth [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
in time a day [illegible] of [illegible]
consequence [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] been here [illegible]
have quite a [illegible] time with them
to do all their [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
to be married soon [illegible] [illegible].
Think of that [illegible] [illegible], for [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
in the [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]
Grand Mother, & relations [illegible] to
them [illegible] & [illegible], I will be
up home in a few weeks, Farewell

[illegible] believe me as ever
Your affectionate Son
[illegible]

Camp 7th Va Kft, Decr 12 1863

My Dr Mother

I doubt not but that you will be exceedingly surprised when I tell you that I am going to be Married, and more so because I have not consulted my dear Mother, but I can assure you it was my ~~full~~ intention to do so, and put in a furlough for that very purpose but have been disappointed in getting it so far. Therefore I have been compelled to adopt this method of informing you of the fact and also of getting my Clothes, I sincerely hope you will not think that I have thus treated you intentionally, for God knows I would give any thing on earth to see you, I regret it the more because none of you can be present at the marriage. I have considered the Matter well and was satisfied with the young lady. she is pretty, and accomplished, weighs 115 lbs. she is Miss Mallory of Hanover & her Brother is Provost Marshall at Charlottesville quite a nice fellow. I need not attempt to give you a description of what I expect to do, Suffice it to say she is a lady, and every way worthy of me. pray tidings

elegantly on the Piano Nam [illegible] sorry that the [illegible] out of so that Lennie cant be there, I will be [illegible] the 22nd of Dec, she will stay at her fathers, and come to Roff[illegible] on account of the [illegible] will [illegible] myself after christmas if I can possibly get a furlough. [illegible] [illegible] sooner, but [illegible] waiting to get a furlough [illegible] myself in which I was [illegible] [illegible]. Please [illegible] [illegible] immediately upon [illegible] arrival send my Black Cloth Coat, fine Boots, Kid gloves, [illegible] all my white cotton socks all my good Collars, Cravats, [illegible] shawl and any thing else I have that you [illegible] think of. I have had my suit [illegible] in Richmond Pleas fix them up nicely by Thursday evening [illegible] must start back that evening in order to get home friday. Please send me the two (200) hundred [illegible] I left when I was at home last if you have, if you havent it dont borrow it from any one as I can do very well without it write me a long letter, dont tell any one about this. let them find out the best they can. Your loving son
I will write you a long letter in a few days Js Popham

Provost Martials Office
Smithville N.C. March 12th 1864

My ever dear Mother & family

I received your kind and most welcome letter a few days ago and would have answered it ere this, but have been waiting for an opportunity to send by some one who was going to Va, and as Lt Porter of my company leaves tomorrow morning I will forward by him. Our Brigade is now on the sea coast of North Carolina at a Village (Smithville) some 30 Miles south of Wilmington N.C. We are at last almost out of the world, can see nothing but the deep briny Ocean & the heavens above us, the county is very poor and abounds principally in pines and sand. I think we have almost gotten out of the war, have no idea that we will ever get in another fight so long as we remain here. This point is very thoroughly fortified, and tis said cant be taken by the yankees. We can see their blockading fleet-

off the bar, to prevent our vessels
from running the blockade, to Nassau
and Bermuda, but they are going
out and in all the time laden
with large cargoes for the Confederates
they are sometimes captured by the
blockaders, but very seldom indeed
This point is invaluable to us
as 'tis the only port open in the South
we get a great deal of our clothing
and provisions for the army, by that
means in spite the enemy, Afraid
to attack this place, as they are
satisfied they can't take it under
any circumstances. I think we are
are here for the war, and 'tis a very
safe place, much more so than in Va
with Genl Lee, though I believe I had
rather be with him as he is the greatest
chieftain of the age, though I am
perfectly satisfied wherever the authorities
choose to send me- The enemy can never
subdue us, all of our Boys are in for the
war and are willing to fight on, fight ever
until our independence is acknowledged I
think this campaign will close the war.
I hear from Sister Mary yesterday they were
all well but was fearful that Henry would

have to go in the army soon, but I don't know
as yet, I think he is only scared about it.
'tis every ones duty to be in the army who
is able, care not what may be his situation
though of course I would prefer Henry's
remaining at home. I hear from Cora a
few days ago, she is quite well, but
quite anxious to see me, I think I shall
get a furlough about the 1st of May
I have got one of the greatest little
"gals" in the Confederacy, pretty and
smart too. Quite a young couple
Old Lady I 21, she 17 but you 18 were
it runs in the family to be married young
you set the example, and of course we must follow

the good example of our dear parents — I suppose
Annie & Ale— is about married, tell her it
is in a hurry of the pursuit — and will be
behind the others, I suppose [illegible] is now
a courting Gentleman, How is Jim, M—
getting along with his better half, I feel
very sorry for them all, as I once anticipated
being in the family — But I suppose it was not
married. My love to Jim, Annie & all. Tell

sister Annie I will certainly get her Music
in May, when I return to Va. and send it to her —
How is Mr Rome getting on, hope he is well and —
Tell Ma I hope the Negroes are all right — and will make
a large crop raise all the bacon you can it is worth
$3.00 a pound — Negroes ought to work hard and keep very saving
Take care of my Colt — keep him & put him to a good
horse this spring, don't fail as colts is very scarce
Don't let the Yankees get any of your horses — they are very
valuable — I was sorry to hear of Jewell's Septimus — hope he is safe —
what became of the ambulance — Write & direct as before. My love to all
Remember me to all my friends & relatives — Write often Your affect. Son
P.S. Have you heard from [illegible] [illegible]

In Boreguards Fortifications
Near "Bermuda Hundreds" June 20th/64

My Dear Mother & Family

Though I have written to you all several times & have anxiously expected replies being anxious to hear from you & the situation of the country. - Not one word have I received in the last two months; don't even know that you are all living, or in what condition you may have been placed by the Yankee horde who have infested the soil of old Culpeper & perhaps Rappahannock too. The condition of the country has been such, since "Grant's" advance from the Rapidan, that I suppose communication has been almost cut off entirely with your section of Virginia. I have heard from Rapp. several times recently through persons passing, but nothing direct from home. Then I trust you are all well & free once more from the close proximity of the enemy. I hope you have lost nothing & that the servants are all well & will continue to work & make plenty to live upon, as every thing is very scarce & high. Those who have to buy provisions are certainly hard off as the they cost enormously high. So impress it upon all to make as much meat & bread as they possibly can. thats the important item now. The Yankees I think, are making their last grand effort for our subjugation & thanks to an overruling providence we have nobly met the terrible shock of battle & baffled every effort they have made against the Capital

of our glorious confederacy. From the Wilderness to the fortifications of Petersburg, we have put "horse de combat" at least an hundred thousand robbers & assassins who have sought but in vain our subjugation. The Yankee loss has been terrible beyond description, whilst ours have been comparatively small, though we have to mourn the loss of many brave & gallant officers & men whose graves are to be seen all along the pathway of Lee's veterans march in the defence of home & all that makes life worth having. We were at the capture of "Plymouth" & complimented for our gallantry in the signal defeat of "Butler" on the "South Side" in May. Our Division (Hoke's) has been ordered here immediately after Butler was driven under protection of his gunboats & have participated in the engagements around the capitol of our country since that time. The enemy has been signally repulsed at Petersburg & north Richmond & that city is now safe. I think it useless to attempt a description of the situation & the many battles that have been fought since the opening of the campaign — doubtless you heard all the particulars & can't help from rejoicing at the glorious results. I trust old Rap[illegible] is still true to her former renown & looks forward to the day (which I trust is not far distant) when a glorious independence shall crown our efforts. Let's be true to our country, & above all our God in this the hour of bitterness & woe. Peace I think will soon dawn upon us a free & independent Nation, that is if we only remain firm & true. I am indeed thankful to the God of battles that I have passed safely through the many hard fought battles since the beginning of this cruel war — though many have fallen around me in the thickest of the fray, thanks God I have not been touched. I heard from Cora a few days ago; she is quite well & enquired anxiously when I heard from home — I "called to see her" the latter part of May — spent two or three days — She is every way worthy of a better boy than I, though I hope to make her happy & never to cause her one single regret or pain. If in that, I shall succeed — then I am content; She is a gay "gal" & you know the Pelhams are fast boys inherited it from their Ma: don't you think so? You just ought to see Mr Pelham & his "gal" & I know you would laugh, as we are very loving.

MISSING PAGE(S)

Camp 7th Va Infantry
Near Chester St. Oct 11th 1864

My Dear Mother

I wrote you some month ago & not a word have I received in reply, also wrote John about the 13th of last month, & not a word have I heard from him either so I imagine you are all getting on so very well, that you haven't time to answer a letter, but occupy your time in eating & feasting on the delicacies of the season which I hope is plentiful & inexaustible I really think between Annie John & yourself, that you might write me once a Month if no more, for I am always anxious to hear from you & of course feel uneasy if I fail to get a letter atleast monthly. I wrote to John that perhaps, I would be at home the 20th; but owing to the movements of the enemy twill be out of my power to visit you all before December or January; hope he will remain in Boppetts till that time, as I would be much pleased to see him. I have no news worth communicating: all's perfectly quiet in our front that is between the Appamattox & James: we haven't fired a shot for three Months, though on either side of us there have been several spirited engagements

I don't think, that the Yankees will attempt to force our position, as we are strongly fortified & I think can hold our own against almost any odds. Did you receive my letter requesting Jim, to get my Mare from "Alley Daniel": If he has not yet succeeded in getting her, I hope you will send for her immediately & keep her for me, as Daniel hasn't any thing to feed her on, & is anxious to get her off his hands: so please don't fail to send for her immediately if you have not already done so; Daniels father lives near "Gaines + Roads", some 4 Miles below Washington. I was to see Cora the 26th of last Month ~~and~~ remained with her several days. She has been quite sick, but is now about well: If the Yankees don't occupy Culpeper this Winter, & I succeed in getting a furlough, we will come up to see you all: Cora speaks of bringing a "young gentleman" with us, and you must not be surprised if the girls fall in love with him, as he is quite a handsome little fellow: & of course will expect to be flattered by all. Tell Annie to save me some batter potatoes & "Lapes" & not to forget my socks. Would write more if I was sure this would reach you. Write to me immediately & give me all the news. Give my love to all. Tell Jim to be sure & get my Mare. My respects to all enquiring friends. Your affectionate son Y. G. Popham

Mrs E. A. Popham

Slate Mills

Rappahk Co

Via. Madison Ct House

& [illegible]ville

#5001-z
T. G. POPHAM PAPERS

Items separated

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